

Certification Policy 97-I(u) – Military Personnel

Original policy – August 1997
1st policy update – December 14, 2000
2nd policy update – January 2002
3rd policy update – April 2003
Latest update is underlined in pink

RE: 157.45 (g) **Military Personnel**

~~Certification extensions and continuances for Texas certified EMS personnel who have been transferred out of the state on military duty will be according to the criteria set out in 157.45 (g), and according to the below policy. This replaces the previous policy dated October 10, 1994, entitled *Continuance of Certification for Military Personnel Transferred Out-of-State*. 157.33 (e) 157.34(a)(7) Military personnel. A person certified by the department who is deployed in support of military, security, or other action by the United Nations Security Council, a national emergency declared by the president of the United States, or a declaration of war by the United States Congress is eligible for recertification under timely recertification requirements, from the person's date of demobilization until one calendar year after the date of demobilization but will not be certified during that period.~~

Background:

Based on a previous legal interpretation of Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes, Title 132, Chapter 20, Article 9027, we have continued the certification of military recertificants for one year after they returned to Texas. A review of the law reveals it exempts the individual " . . . from any increased fee or other penalty for failure to renew the license in a timely manner . . . ". No specific wording calls for continued or extended certification. Therefore, we have rescinded the policy entitled, Continuance of Certification for Military Personnel Transferred Out-of-State, dated October 10, 1994, granting continued certification while completing recertification requirements upon return to Texas.

Policy:

C A recertifying candidate who, during the certification period has been transferred out of state on active military duty and fails to renew certification because of the transfer, will have **one year from the date of return** to complete recertification requirements, and will be **exempt from increased fees or penalties**. For the purposes of this policy, increased fees are defined as late fees and penalties are defined as late recertification procedures. Emergency suspension is not considered a penalty of failure to renew a license.

C No late fees are assessed, and timely recertification requirements apply if:

- the candidate **makes a written request** for the exemption which includes a brief explanation or outline of the tour within one year after the return to Texas.
- the candidate **submits copies of official transfer papers** for departure and return. Documentation of active duty orders and return orders must be submitted on official letterhead, specifically list the date of departure and return, and include authorizing signature(s).

C The 4 year certification will **commence on issue date** (instead of commencing on the day after the existing expiration date, as is routine for timely recertification)

C The **certification does not continue** for the one year period while timely recertification requirements are being completed

C ~~The CE hours the candidate completed must be preapproved by TDH and accrued within 2 years of the application date.~~

C ~~Two year CE requirements will not be waived for military personnel. Standard procedures will be applied to all aspects of 2-year CE.~~

~~Gene Weatherall, Chief~~

~~Bureau of Emergency Management~~

~~Original policy signature dated September 15, 1997~~

Kathryn C. Perkins, R.N., M.B.A., Chief

Bureau of Emergency Management

1st policy update signature dated: February 13, 2001

2nd policy update signature dated: March 21, 2002

3rd policy update signature dated: May 2, 2003

Policy 97-I(u)

(u)-denotes updated policy